

# Mechanism Independent Cluster Security Services

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The problem of providing and interacting with a number of different security mechanisms  
5 in a clustered data processing environment is solved by providing a Mechanism Abstract Layer  
which presents a consistent interface to applications running on the various nodes within the  
cluster. Mechanism Pluggable Modules are provided for each security mechanism that one  
wishes to employ. The Pluggable Modules provide a mechanism for mapping individualized  
security mechanism parameters through an interface with the Mechanism Abstract Layer. This  
10 provides a consistent interface for applications running on the nodes and it also avoids costly  
adaptations that would otherwise be necessary to accommodate new security mechanisms or  
variations in prior security mechanisms.